

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-01

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P R 061629Z JUL 76

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, SOPN

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. PORTUGUESE MEDIA PRODUCED OVERWHELMING QUANTITY OF BICENTENNIAL MATERIAL DURING JULY 2-6 PERIOD, MUCH OF IT WITH USIA-SUPPLIED PROGRAMS, FILMS, PRESS MATERIALS. SOME EXAMPLES:

2. WEEKLY LIBERAL INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER "EXPRESSO" PUBLISHED FRONT-PAGE SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER AND A FOUR-PAGE SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL SUPPLEMENT. SUPPLEMENT INCLUDED ARTICLE BY PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO U.S. JOAO HALL THEMIDO AND USIS-FURNISHED ISAAC ASIMOV LOOK AT AMERICA IN YEAR 2000. IN INTRODUCTION TO SUPPLEMENT, A. MARTINS LOPES WROTE THAT AMERICAN REVOLUTION "WAS A DIRECT, ABRUPT BREAK WITH THE PAST, A BREAKING UP OF BRIDGES AND RECONSTRUCTION OF NEW ONES IN DIFFERENT, MORE EGALITARIAN AND MORE JUST WAYS..." AMBASSADOR THEMIDO WROTE RE LUSO-AMERICAN RELATIONS:"...THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AT FIRST HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION, BUT IT HAD THE POLITICAL REALISM TO CONFIDE IN THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, AN ATTITUDE WHICH PROVED BEST AS PORTUGAL MOVED TOWARD PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY AND THE PEOPLE REVEALED MATURITY AND MODERATION, DEFENDING THE MAINTENANCE OF TIES WITH THE WEST..."

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3. EDITOR RAUL REGO OF SOCIALIST "A LUTA" WROTE FRONT-PAGE EDITORIALS OF U.S. INDEPENDENCE JULY 3 AND 5. ON JULY 3, HE SAID, "THE MESSAGE OF THE PIONEERS OF TWO CENTURIES AGO STILL SPEAKS TO US TODAY, AND IN ITS MESSAGE OF DEFENSE OF FREEDOMS AND OF EFFORTS TOWARD THE WELL-BEING OF MANKIND, IT IS AN INCENTIVE TOWARD THE UNITY OF ALL EFFORTS AND FOR THE RESPECT FOR ALL APPROACHES TOWARD THE WELL-BEING OF ALL SOCIETIES." (FOR IBS/PE: "...A MENSAGEM DOS PIONEIROS DE HA DOIS SEculos VEIO ATE NOSSOS DIAS, E, NO QUE ELA TEM DE DEFESA DAS LIBERDADES E DE ESFORCO PELO BEM-ESTAR DOS HOMENS, CONTITUI INCENTIVO PARA A UNIAO DE TODAS AS VONTADES E RESPEITO DE TODAS AS OPINIOES PARA BEM DE TODAS AS SOCIEDADES."

4. "O SEculo" ON JULY 3 CONCLUDED 15-PART SERIES ENTITLED "BICENTENNIAL OF THE GIANT COUNTRY" WITH ARTICLE HEADLINED IN ENGLISH, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA". COORDINATOR OF SERIES, FORMER IVP GRANTEE, FRANCISCO MATA, WROTE: "BEST WISHES TO THE U.S. ON ITS TWO CENTURIES OF INDEPENDENCE. AND THANKS FOR ALL IT DID, IN A SLIGHTLY CONFUSING WAY, FOR OUR CIVILIZATION IN THE ARTS, LETTER AND SCIENCES. AND ABOVE ALL, THANKS TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN...MY FAVORITE AMERICAN..."

5. "A CAPTIAL" OF JULY 5 INCLUDED 12-PAGE BICENTENNIAL SUPPLEMENT, BASED ENTIRELY ON USIS-SUPPLIED MATERIALS, WITH INTRODUCTION BY APPIO SOTTOMAYOR WHICH CALLED BICENTENNIAL "FRUIT OF A SPECTACULAR EVOLUTION WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT OVERT CHANGES IN UNIVERSAL HISTORY..."

6. "O DIA" CONTINUED TWO-PAGE SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL FEATURE SECTION THROUGHOUT WEEKEND, ALSO BASED ON USIS ARTICLES, PHOTOS.

7. TWO PAPERS, "A LUTA" AND "DIARIO POPULAR," DURING BICENTENNIAL WEEKEND WERE CARRYING SERIES OF ARTICLES ABOUT U.S. PREPARED BY TOUR THREE CARAVAN AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS. "A CAPITAL" OF JULY 3 USED ARTICLE CABLED FROM SIOUX FALLS BY TOUR EIGHT PARTICIPANT. (FM FORTHCOMING).

8. USIA'S "SALUTE BY SATELLITE" WITH PORTUGUESE TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT ON CAMERA WAS AIRED JULY 4 AT 21:15
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LOCAL. RECEPTION WAS QUITE FAVORABLE, EXCEPT FOR PREDICTABLE SOUR-GRAPE COLUMN BY PRO-COMMUNIST IN "DIARIO DE LISBOA". (FM FORTHCOMING).

9. PORTUGUESE STATE RADIO USED USIS-SUPPLIED ARTICLES, TAPES AND RECORDS TO PREPARE BICENTENNIAL SPECIAL PROGRAM AIRED AT 19:00 JULY 5 WHICH WAS TO BE REPEATED ON ITS VARIOUS CHANNELS JULY 6 AND OTHER DATES. ADDITIONALLY, A SPECIAL

"HISTORY OF AMERICAN MUSIC" PROGRAM WAS TO BE FEATURED ON EVENING OF JULY 6, ON THE FINE-MUSIC CHANNEL. AT NETWORK'S REQUEST, A BICENTENNIAL MESSAGE TO PORTUGUESE PEOPLE BY U.S. AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI WAS TAPED AND BROADCAST AT PRIME TIMES ON JULY 4. STATE RADIO NETWORK ON JULY 4 ALSO BROADCAST PRESIDENT FORD'S BICENTENNIAL MESSAGE AS FED BY PHONE FROM VOA'S MARIO MEUNIER.

10. WEEKLY MAGAZINE "OPCAO" DATED JULY 7 CARRIED SIX-PAGE INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI WHICH TOUCHED ON ASPECTS OF U.S. INTERNAL AFFAIRS, U.S. THIRD WORLD POLICIES, U.S.-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS AND OTHER TOPICS.
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